



# Rule Up For Discussion

Amended Rule

WAC 230-40-120 (5)

Limits on wagers in card games.

## ITEM 13(a) on the October 14, 2005, Commission Meeting Agenda. Statutory Authority 9.46.070 & 9.46.0282

### Who proposed the rule change?

Recreational Gaming Association.

### Why is this rule change proposed?

In May 2000, permanent rules were adopted setting wagering limits for house-banked card games at \$100. Effective July 1, 2004, at the request of the card room industry, wagering limits increased to \$200 on a limited basis. Currently, card rooms that operate:

- (a) Five tables or fewer may offer \$200 wagering limits at one table;
- (b) Six to ten tables may offer \$200 wagering limits at two tables; and
- (c) More than ten tables may offer \$200 wagering limits at three tables.

### Following is a brief history of the wager increase.

**In September 2001**, the Recreational Gaming Association (RGA) filed a petition to increase betting limits to \$500. Prior to the Commission taking action on the petition, the RGA withdrew the petition.

**At the November 2001 meeting**, the Commission filed a second petition submitted by the RGA, which set forth three options for increasing betting limits. At the January 2002 Commission meeting, the RGA asked that the petition be held over until after the legislative session.

**At the August 2003 meeting**, the Commission filed a third petition submitted by the RGA, which requested wagering limits be increased from \$100 to \$300. At the February 2004 meeting, the Commission voted to increase wagering limits to \$200 on a limited basis (effective July 1, 2004). This compromise amendment was adopted after extensive testimony and discussion, both supporting and opposing an increase, over a seven month period at five Commission meetings.

Three card rooms have had regulatory violations when they offered \$200 wagering limits at more than the authorized number of tables. Some licensees have said it is difficult to keep track of which tables have the \$200 limits because of shift changes and other distractions.

Dolores Chiechi, on behalf of the Recreational Gaming Association, is asking that \$200 wagering limits be authorized for *all* house-banked tables, rather than one, two or three tables, depending on the number authorized under a license. They feel having the ability to offer \$200 wagering limits at all tables simplifies the rule.

### Policy Considerations

May be perceived as an expansion of gambling, because it would increase the wagering limit on all house-banked tables to \$200.

### Attachments:

Petition for Rule Change and letter dated 8/12/05

Letter from Ms. Chiechi dated 8/23/05

Proposed amendment to WAC 230-40-120

Letter to Ms. Chiechi informing her of the October 14, 2005, Commission meeting.

### Statements against the proposed rule change.

None.

### Which licensees will be directly impacted?

House-banked card rooms.

### What are the potential impacts to the agency?

None.

### Staff recommendation.

Whether or not to allow this is a policy decision for the Commission.

### Proposed effective date.

January 1, 2006.

